

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 00338 01 OF 02 160743Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 VO-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /065 W
-----020050 160745Z /17/73

P 140515Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1756
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 0338

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS TO OAKLEY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, VM
SUBJECT: DEP. ASST. SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH
MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK ZAKARIA:
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 0250, B) STATE 8535

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSIONS ON JANUARY 13 WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK ZAKARIA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR BROACHED
THE SUBJECT OF AN APPARENT STIFFENING RECENTLY IN GOM POLICY
ON ADMISSION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEE HOSTS (REFTEL A).
DATUK ZAKARIA ASSERTED THAT GOM POLICY OF GIVING VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES TEMPORARY ASYLUM HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE IT WAS EX-
PLAINED TO THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON BY PRIME MINISTER DATUK
HUSSEIN ONN, AND SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSED THE MATTER
WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN NOVEMBER. HE SAID THAT AN ODD CASE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 00338 01 OF 02 160743Z

OR TWO OF PUSHING OFF VESSELS MAY HAVE OCCURRED, BUT THAT THAT
SHOULD NOT ALTER MALAYSIA'S REPUTATION OF HUMANITARIAN
TREATMENT TO THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES. HOWEVER, ZAKARIA
IMPLIED THAT THE GOM WOULD INCREASINGLY SEEK TO GET SEA-
WORTHY CRAFT TO MOVE ON ELSEWHERE. THIS MAY IN FACT REPRESENT
SOME HARDENING IN THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF GOM'S
POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. OAKLEY PREFACED HIS REMARKS OF CONCERN OVER A REPORTED TOUGHENING OF GOM POLICY TOWARDS VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES, BY RECOUNTING VIETNAMESE ACCUSATIONS IN OUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS THAT THE U.S. WAS ENCOURAGING THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES IN ORDER TO HUMILIATE VIETNAM, OUR STRONG DENIALS OF THIS CHARGE, AND OUR EXPLANATION OF OUR TRADITIONAL POLICY OF ACCEPTING REFUGEES. OAKLEY NOTED THAT VIETNAM HAS ALSO APPROACHED ASEAN NATIONS IN THIS REGARD, AND HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE THESE COUNTRIES FROM ADMITTING REFUGEES. BY FOLLOWING THESE REMARKS WITH AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF A POSSIBLY HARDER GOM LINE, OAKLEY IMPLIED THAT HE FEELS THE GOM MAY BE RESPONDING TO SRV PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE RECENT VISIT OF SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH.

2. BOTH OAKLEY AND THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE CONCERNED OVER ANY GOM ACTIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO ASK CONGRESS FOR ADDITIONAL NUMBERS FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES (7,000 NOW REQUESTED), AS WELL AS TO WORK OUT A LONG-RANGE POLICY TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM. BOTH STRESSED THAT THE CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE WISH TO SEE PROOF THAT OTHER NATIONS ARE COOPERATING IN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SAFE TRANSIT AND/OR RESETTLEMENT FOR THE REFUGEES, AND THAT RECENT GOM STIFFENING TOWARDS BOAT ARRIVALS MAY JEOPARDIZE THESE PROGRAMS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 00338 01 OF 02 160743Z

3. THE AMBASSADOR BROUGHT ZAKARIA UP TO DATE ON THE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES TAKEN BY THE U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRIES IN RECENT MONTHS. HE REMARKED THAT WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR PROMISES TO TAKE LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE , AND THAT WE AND AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES ACCEPTING REFUGEES, WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. ZAKARIA DID NOT APPEAR TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CITED CASE CONCERNING AN UNSEAWORTHY CRAFT WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND RECENTLY IN JOHORE. HE REMARKED THAT THERE MAY BE AN "ODD CASE" NOW AND AGAIN, BUT STATED THAT GOM POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN SPOKE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN SEPTEMBER, AND WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN NOVEMBER. ZAKARIA REPEATEDLY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT MALAYSIA COULD NOT RESETTLE OR ENCOURAGE THESE REFUGEES AND HE REMARKED THAT GOM POLICY IS TO GET SEAWORTHY CRAFT TO MOVE ON ELSEWHERE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

5. OAKLEY STATED THAT IN APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY, MALAYSIA HAS INDEED ALLOWED NUMEROUS SEAWORTHY CRAFT TO COME ASHORE, AND THE RECENT INCIDENTS SEEM TO REVEAL A STRICTER

DEFINITION OF THIS POLICY.

6. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ZAKARIA'S ASSURANCES ON THE CONTINUATION OF GOM POLICY AS STATED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, AND PROMISED TO KEEP THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED OF THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES, AND OF ANY FUTURE TRENDS IN U.S. POLICY. WHEN HE AGAIN REFERRED TO OUR CONCERN OVER THE APPARENT TOUGHENING OGOM POLICY, ZAKARIA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE CASE CITED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 00338 02 OF 02 140607Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 VO-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /065 W

-----014075 142354Z /73

P 140515Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1757
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 0338

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS TO OAKLEY

7. COMMENT. ZAKARIA HAS LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOM WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TEMPORARY REFUGE IF IT CANNOT BE AVOIDED, BUT THAT IT WILL TRY TO GET SEAWORTHY CRAFT TO MOVE ON IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THIS MAY REPRESENT A HARDENING SOMEWHAT OF THE GOM'S IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS POLICY. SINCE OAKLEY AND THE AMBASSADOR SAW ZAKARIA JANUARY 13 THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER CASE REPORTED OF A REFUGEE CRAFT FORCED BACK TO SEA THAT FOUNDERED, CAUSING SEVERAL DROWNINGS (SEE SEPTTEL). WE HAVE ALSO BROUGHT THIS TO MFA'S ATTENTION.

8. THE UPDATE ON REFUGEES WE PASSED TO ZAKARIA IS AS FOLLOWS:

SINCE MID-NOVEMBER 1977, 650 REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED MALAYSIA FOR THE U.S. AN ADDITIONAL 730 PERSONS HAVE DEPARTED FOR AUSTRALIA. APPROXIMATELY 100 HAVE LEFT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,480 BOAT REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED FROM

MALAYSIA FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRIES
DURING THE PERIOD.
DURING THE PERIOD 15 NOVEMBER 1977 UNTIL 12 JANUARY 1978
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 00338 02 OF 02 140607Z

AN ESTIMATED 1,550 REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED IN MALAYSIA.
AT PRESENT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,800 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES
IN MALAYSIA. OF THESE, 452 WILL DEPART FOR THE U.S. IN THE
REMAINING 19 DAYS OF JANUARY. A PROJECTED 1,100 PERSONS
ACCEPTED UNDER U.S. PROGRAMS WILL DEPART IN FEBRUARY AND
MARCH OF 1978. AN ADDITIONAL 500 REFUGEES ARE EXPECTED TO
LEAVE UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM AND ANOTHER 150 VIETNAMESE
SHOULD LEAVE UNDER THE FRENCH PROGRAM BY THE END OF MARCH.
ANTICIPATED DEPARTURES FROM MALAYSIA FOR THE U.S. AND THIRD
COUNTRIES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 12 THROUGH MARCH 1978
SHOULD EXCEED 2,000 REFUGEES.
MILLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SECRETARY GENERAL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA00338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0412, D780022-0394
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780163/aaaacbc1.tel
Line Count: 191
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54a763e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 250, 78 STATE 8535
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3774720
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEP. ASST. SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK ZAKARIA: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, VM, MY, (OAKLEY, ROBERT), (ZAKARIA, DATUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54a763e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014